

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification and claim 4-6 and 14-16 have been amended. Claim 1-3 and 9-13 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 4-8 and 14-16 are pending and under consideration.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 USC § 103 (a) as unpatentable over Itoh and Nishizawa; claims 9-13 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Johnson; and claims 4-8 and 14-16 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, claims 4-6 and 14 are rewritten in independent form, and claims 1-3 and 9-13 are canceled without prejudice.

Accordingly, independent claims 4-6 and 14 and each of the claims depending therefrom are believed to be allowable, and are further amended only to correct minor informalities and to better conform to U.S. patent practice. It is believed no new matter is added.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 11, 2004

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